IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of communicating at least one block of data from a first functional element within a transform based coder or decoder to a second functional element within the coder or decoder, wherein the at least one block of data comprises a row-column structure of data coefficients, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of: reducing the size of the at least one block of data to produce a reduced size data block by elimination of one or more rows and/or columns of redundant data coefficients, and communicating the reduced size data block from the first functional element to the second functional element.

2. (original) A method of communicating at least one block of data according to claim 1, wherein the step of reducing the size of the at least one block of data may comprise the steps of identifying rows and/or columns having only substantially zero valued coefficients as redundant data.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, where the dimensions of the reduced size data block are communicated to the second

functional element.

4.   (original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of reducing the size of the at least one block of data is achieved by the elimination of coefficients outside a predetermined boundary.

5.   (original)   A transform based coder or decoder element adapted to communicate at least one block of data, comprising a row-column structure of data coefficients, to a second functional element of the coder or decoder, comprising means for reducing the size of the at least one block of data to produce a reduced size data block by elimination of one or more rows and/or columns of substantially zero valued coefficients, and means for communicating the reduced size data block to the second functional element.

6.   (original)   A transform based coder or decoder element according to claim 5, wherein the means for reducing the size of the at least one block of data is implemented by selection of coefficients within a predetermined boundary.

7.   (original)   A transform based coder or decoder element according to claim 5, wherein the means for reducing the size of the at least one block of data is adapted to identify rows and/or

columns having only substantially zero valued coefficients as redundant data.

8. (original)   A transform based coder or decoder element according to claim 7, wherein the element is adapted to communicate the dimensions of the reduced size data block to the second element.

9. (currently amended)   A digital video recording system comprising an input device for acquiring a video image,

a transform based coder according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 8~~claim 5 for coding the acquired video image, and

an output device for outputting the acquired coded image.

10. (currently amended)   A digital video playback system comprising an image device adapted to accept a coded video image,

a decoder according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 8~~claim 5 for decoding the coded video, and

an output device for outputting the decoded video.